

**APPROVED**

SEP 16 2015

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 15-211

DATE September 16, 2015

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WHITE POINT NATURE PRESERVE – AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION IN RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL; ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS

R. Barajas  
H. Fujita  
\*V. Israel

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K. Regan \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the submission of a grant proposal to the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation for the Habitat Conservation Fund in the amount of \$85,000.00, for funding the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to conduct school field trips, nature workshops, naturalist-led tours, and volunteer opportunities at White Point Nature Preserve, subject to Mayor and City Council approval;
2. Authorize the General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to accept and receive the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund grant, if awarded, in the approximate amount of \$85,000.00, subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Council;
3. Designate RAP's General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager as the agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the project(s);
4. Direct staff to submit the required Resolution to City Council for adoption, , substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, certifying RAP's General Manager or his/her

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designee as the person authorized to obligate the grantee and execute all contractual documents of the kind required by the State of California Habitat Conservation Fund;

5. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the grant application to the Mayor, Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and to the City Clerk for Council Committee and City Council approval before accepting and receiving the grant award, pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6 et seq. as may be amended; and,
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to establish and appropriate funding received to the necessary account within "Recreation and Parks Grant" Fund 205 to accept the State of California Habitat Conservation Fund grant, if awarded, in the approximate amount of \$85,000.00 and to reimburse PVPLC from that account for their expenses in implementing the funded programming at White Point Nature Preserve.

### SUMMARY:

Established by the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, the State's Habitat Conservation Fund allocates approximately \$2 million per year to local entities to protect threatened species, address wildlife corridors, create trails, and provide for nature interpretation programs which bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas. Grants from the Habitat Conservation Fund are administered through the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and only government agencies are eligible.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, preserves undeveloped land as open space for historical, educational, ecological, recreational and scenic purposes. The PVPLC's vision is the creation and management of natural open space where children and adults can learn about the natural environment, and where native plants and animals can thrive. Since its founding in 1988, the organization has successfully preserved 1,600 acres of open space on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The PVPLC has been a partner with the RAP for the preservation, restoration, and educational use of White Point Nature Preserve in San Pedro, executing a 25-year Operating Agreement (Report No. 01-371) on February 22, 2002. The White Point Nature Preserve features 102 acres of restored coastal sage scrub habitat, hiking, and handicap accessible trails overlooking the ocean and Catalina Island. The Preserve is now home to the Nature Education Center, which opened in May 2010 and serves as a resource for students, families, and community groups from all over Los Angeles.

On October 21, 2009, the Board approved applying for \$184,500.00 from the California Habitat Conservation Fund on behalf of PVPLC, to fund two (2) on-site naturalists, provide Nature University Programs which included after-school programs and a volunteer outdoor stewardship program, and school-based environmental educational programs targeting children in grades K-5

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(Report No. 09-273). This grant was awarded by the State to RAP the following year. On October 19, 2011, the Board approved an amendment to the Operating Agreement with PVPLC to authorize payments to PVPLC for fulfillment of grant-funded programs for which RAP was awarded the grant (Report No. 11-285). That amendment was executed on November 7, 2012, and the grant's funds were reimbursed to PVPLC for these educational programs through February 2015.

With that grant for educational assistance exhausted, PVPLC is interested in applying for a new grant from the same fund to provide monthly community nature workshops, naturalist led tours of the White Point Nature Preserve, field trip visits to White Point Nature Preserve to twenty-five (25) schools per year, and over twenty (20) opportunities per year to learn about native habitat restoration and wildlife through volunteer projects. They propose a two-year program grant of \$85,000.00 which as required will be matched with \$130,000.00 in funding provided by the PVPLC's donors and other grants. The total budget is \$215,000.00 or \$107,500.00 per year and will be used between July 2016 and June 2018. The filing deadline for the upcoming 2016-2017 funding cycle is October 1, 2015.

The Assistant General Manager, Operations Branch, the Superintendent of the Pacific Region and the Council District 15 Office support programs at White Point Nature Preserve.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no fiscal impact on the Department's General Fund for implementation of the programs to be provided by PVPLC at White Point Nature Preserve under this grant.

This report was prepared by Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, Partnership and Revenue Branch.